

March 14, 2016

Chairs and Members of the Committee on Children

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend today's public hearing because of health problems, which are due to Lyme disease.

I am writing in support of Raised Bill S. B. 438 - AN ACT DESIGNATING VARIOUS MONTHS, WEEKS AND DAYS OF COMMEMORATION because our leaders need to inspire people to care for themselves and their community through the best communication systems that they know. A message, especially a prevention message, needs to be consistent and persistent, AND it needs to be repeated often to be effective.

Lyme disease is a multisystem, multistage, inflammatory tickborne disorder. The first case in the United States was identified in Connecticut 40 years ago in 1975 and it became a reportable disease in 1987.

According to the 2014 CT DPH Reportable Disease statistics Lyme disease ranks 3rd:

- 1) Chlamydia (12,732 cases)
- 2) Hepatitis C (chronic/resolved) (2,410 cases)
- 3) Lyme disease (2299 confirmed and probable cases)
- 4) Gonorrhea (1,421 cases)

Since 1987 Lyme disease has become the most common vector-borne inflammatory disease in the United State.

The funding for a statewide prevention program was deleted from the CT budget but the problem remains. Please vote in favor of S. B. 438 - AN ACT DESIGNATING VARIOUS MONTHS, WEEKS AND DAYS OF COMMEMORATION.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Frances Ryan
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